Ele Saltmarsh

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| Education | |
| **2018-exp.2024** | The Pennsylvania State University PhD candidate in Agricultural and Environmental Plant Sciences, supervisor Dr. Armen Kemanian. |
| **2015-2018** | The University of Oxford BA Biological Sciences, Second Class Upper Division, with honours.  Thesis: “Investigating the effects of intercropping with legumes and pesticidal plants as a replacement for agrochemicals during crop cultivation”, under Dr. Tonya Lander. |
| Skills | |
| * Editing and proofreading manuscripts for scientific and non-scientific audiences. * Translation of technical writing into accessible formats for politicians and the general public. * Typesetting, document design and layout using Adobe Creative Cloud, LaTex, and Microsoft. * Experienced in writing applications, grant proposals, and persuasive texts. * Fluent in C, R, and VBA for Excel and working knowledge of Fortran and MATLAB. Able to rapidly self-teach new languages. * Highly organised, with the ability to coordinate multiple parties and mediate disputes. * Trained in peer support, welfare provision, and as a first point of contact in cases of sexual assault. | |
| Experience and Employment | |
| **2020** | Modelled and published results on the feasibility of UK self-sufficiency  * Recipient of funds for the purpose of building an interactive model of UK food supply and demand, in order to determine the feasibility of * multiple scenarios including reducing imports to 20%, changing diets, and transitioning to agroecological farming. Results are to be published in collaboration with The Landworkers’ Alliance. |
| **2018-2022** | Graduate research assistant, Penn State Agroecosystems Modelling laboratory.  * Member of a diverse team carrying out field and model-based research. * Editor and proof-reader of articles for a scientific audience, including editing of work from non-native English speakers. |
| **2018-2022** | Teaching assistant, Penn State University  * Teaching assistant for the undergraduate Horticulture 101 and 401 courses, covering classes, assisting students during class and office hours, and writing and grading exams. |
| **2017-2018** | Final Honours School research with the University of Oxford.  * Extended Essay: “Photosynthesis for the future: the potential of carbon concentrating mechanisms in sustainably increasing crop yields”, under Dr. Jane Langdale. * Presentation: “Using genetic variation in crop species and wild relatives to improve resilience to drought in *Zea mays*”, under Dr. Andrew Smith |
| **2017-present** | Policy document writer and editor for the Landworkers’ Alliance.  * Contracted to produce and design policy documents on post-Brexit farming policy for the Landworkers’ Alliance, an organisation representing British small scale and agroecological farms. Involves writing original content as well as editing content from others. Research is translated into accessible language then laid out in appealing ways with Adobe Creative Cloud * Recent publications include policy papers on subjects such as horticultural regeneration, supporting new entrants to farming, and supporting the transition from industrial to agroecological farming. Many proposals are now being worked into a UK Agriculture Bill. |
| **Jul-Aug 2016** | Assistant field researcher, Operation Wallacea  * Accompanied a research team to the Peruvian Amazon, working with a team of field scientists to document long term changes to the flooded forest ecosystem. * Data were used for long-term analysis of climate change on flooding patterns, movement of Pink River Dolphins, and feminization of caiman populations. * Data were also shared with the indigenous tribe of the region, whom the Peruvian government had designated as stewards. Trends were used to set annual sustainable harvest levels and locally administered conservation targets. * Involved successful application for several grants to fund my involvement, and reports on the success of indigenous management schemes. |
| **2015-2017** | Student representative roles, Balliol College.  * Elected as LGBTQ representative for a body of 300+ students. Worked on a diversity subcommittee to provide support and information for students. * Subsequently elected Welfare Officer, leading the subcommittee. Involved managing a significant budget, leading a subcommittee of student welfare officers, liaising with the college’s welfare providers and counsellors, and organising welfare provision for the student body. * Also elected Comrade Shakespeare,involving termly management of a budget and organisation, production and publication of a booklet of art and poetry made by the students. |
| **2014-2015** | Young reporter, independent work in Kenya.  * Winner of the Amnesty International Young Reporter Award for reporting human rights abuses that occurred when conservation policies called for exclusion of an indigenous Kenyan tribe from the forests that they sustainably inhabited. * Subsequently travelled to the Kenyan Highlands and organised production of a documentary “Honey at the Top” publicising the violent forced evictions that were leading to the tribe’s cultural genocide. * Included organising several fundraisers and meeting with people from Amnesty International and the World Bank. |
| **2013-2015** | Presented a thesis on the viability of proposed solutions to climate change.  * Carried out an in-depth research project and thesis on the dangers posed by climate change, and how to avoid it. * Research involved travel to events including the 2013 World Social Forum in Tunis, and a Zero Carbon Britain course on potential routes to avoid climate change. I have continued to attend current events, including travel as a delegate to the COP climate agreements. * Analysis involved modelling of potential policy changes and their effects on the environment, and detailed analysis of both scientific articles and policy documents. |
| **2012-current** | Activist and political lobbyist  * Member of La Via Campesina, an international organization with over 200 million members in 82 countries, all of whom are active farmers. * Helped found the UK branch of La Via Campesina, the Landworkers’ Alliance, in 2012, and was elected as youth representative in 2013. * Significant activities involve arranging a delegation to travel to Brussels in 2012 to campaign on the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy reform and helping organise a pop-up farmers’ market and demonstration in front of the UK Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs. |
| Awards and Honours | |
| **2015-2018** | Moritz-Heyman Scholarship at the University of Oxford  * Tuition reduction and bursary provided to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, for remaining in good academic standing and completing 30-50 hours of community service per year. |
| **2014** | Winner of the Amnesty International Young Reporter Awards 2014  * Article entitled “Torching the Tribes”, selected from over 7000 entries. |
| Miscellaneous | |
| **Sep 2016** | **Caller at the Balliol affinity-based Telephone Fundraising Campaign**, lasting 2 weeks and raising over £250,000. |
| **2016-2018** | **Chef and customer service** at Balliol’s student-run café- part of an attempt to get students to eat more healthy food. |
| **2016-2018** | **OxCo-op Ethical Food Volunteer:** part of a food buying association, involving networking with suppliers, raising student awareness of environmental issues, and helping at the pop-up shop. |
| **2016-2018** | **Student helper at access, outreach, and open days,** including talks to potential Oxbridge applicants both in Oxford and at locations around the country. |
| **2013-2018** | **Waitress, planner, and chef** with a wedding catering company, specialising in serving organic and seasonal food home grown on our organic farm. |
| **2013-2015** | **Sixth Form Science Club Organiser:** ran a science club for younger years, involving planning experiments, liaising with technicians to obtain equipment, carrying out health and safety analyses, and teaching the practical and theoretical basis to year 7 students. |